

Today's News - Thursday, September 15, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, September 20 (that leaves you lots of time to work on some terrific Calls for Entries below!).

- Goldberger weighs in eloquently (and a bit humorously) on Heatherwick's formerly "top-secret" Hudson Yards project: "It is sort of a building, but not really; it is sort of a sculpture, but not really. It is similar to a tower, but it isn't quite that, either" (will we call it "The Heatherwick"?).
- Loos offers his 2 cents on Heatherwick's "stairway to nowhere" at Hudson Yards: it "may be the city's next big landmark - and its biggest Rorschach test: Big, bold and basket-shaped" (with a "small bum").
- Byrd tours the new African-American museum with Adjaye to find out how he "told the story of the African-American experience - with a building."
- King (mostly) cheers the long-overdue renovation of San Francisco's historic Bayview Opera House: it may have "a new lease on life," but "the rebirth has a bittersweet tinge."
- There are only three registered black female architects in Austin - but they "hope to build diversity within Austin's architectural community."
- Dezeen issues a Brexit Design Manifesto endorsed by a who's who in the design world: "Design can help the UK thrive after Brexit. But first the government must help design."
- Eye candy for the day: "10 of the most beautiful libraries on Earth - all of them are works of art in themselves."
- Call for entries: RFQ for River Park Design for Eagle, Colorado + EO: U.K. Holocaust Memorial International Design Competition + 2017 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence + Blueprint for Genoa international ideas competition.
- Weekend diversions:
 - Wainwright x 3(!): there are some "fascinating installations" at the Oslo Architecture Biennale, but, "sadly, too many take compelling topics and murder them with a toxic cocktail of willful complexity, pseudointellectual posturing, and dumb conceptual art" (we hear Oslo's great, though).
 - He cheers two London shows: he's in "sweatbox heaven at "Soak, Steam, Dream: Reinventing Bathing Culture" that "gets up a real head of steam."
 - He's smitten by Burtynsky's "awesome images" in "Salt Pans | Essential Elements": "these glossy visions are no mere enviro-porn," though the "manmade scars are incredibly seductive."
 - Martin cheers "Engineering the World: Ove Arup and the Philosophy of Total Design" at the V&A.
- A rundown of some cool-looking installations about to take center stage at the London Design Festival.
- A good reason to head to Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington - it's Architecture Week 2016 - Housing the Future.
- A good reason to head to Detroit: the 6th Annual Detroit Design Festival celebrates the city's UNESCO designation.
- Gauer finds the 18 "thoughtful essays" in Marron's "City Squares" to be "a celebration of these quintessential outdoor rooms as civic settings for the rituals and dramas of urban life."
- Betsky finds "joy" in LTL's "Manual of Section": "I love this book" - it "opens a world in architecture in which I gladly, with this book as my Baedeker Guide, go wandering."

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The Mystery of Thomas Heatherwick's Top-Secret Hudson Yards Project: ...a captivating [150-foot-tall] centerpiece: ...no one, including me, has any idea what to call it, because no one is quite sure what it is. It is sort of a building, but not really; it is sort of a sculpture, but not really. It is similar to a tower, but it isn't quite that, either...The Heatherwick - I would not be surprised...if that is what people started to call it... By Paul Goldberger [images]- Vanity Fair

A \$150 Million Stairway to Nowhere on the Far West Side: "Vessel"...to be built at Hudson Yards...may be the city's next big landmark - and its biggest Rorschach test: Big, bold and basket-shaped...stands 15 stories...Some may see a jungle gym, others a honeycomb...154 interconnecting staircases may put visitors in mind of a drawing by M. C. Escher..."You can't be small in New York." By Ted Loos -- Thomas Heatherwick/Heatherwick Studio; Nelson Byrd Woltz [images]- New York Times

How David Adjaye Told The Story Of The African-American Experience - With A Building:The architect behind the new National Museum of African American History and Culture explains how he captured "an extraordinary journey": The exhibit halls resonate because America has still not decisively resolved the complex issues that make the museum so necessary in the first place. By Ayana Byrd -- Freelon Group Davis Brody Bond; SmithGroupJJR - Fast Company / Co.Design

Renovated Opera House a boon for the Bayview, but work remains: When the Bayview Opera House reopens this weekend after a \$5.7 million renovation that took nearly three years, the celebration will be well deserved. There's also much that still should happen...to bring the 1888 landmark to its full potential...the rebirth has a bittersweet tinge...But here's the flip side: [It] has a new lease on life. By John King -- TEF Design; Knapp Architects; Walter Hood [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

These Black Women Hope to Build Diversity Within Austin's Architect Community: Devanne Pena was surprised to discover she is set to be one of three registered black female architects in Austin. That lack of diversity is an issue being tackled by UT Austin's School of Architecture...Out of the more than 1,100 licensed architects in Austin, only seven reported their race as African-American. -- Andrea Roberts; Donna Carter - KUT Austin - NPR / National Public Radio

Brexit Design Manifesto: ...a grassroots project coordinated and produced by Dezeen and endorsed by people and organisations across the architecture and design sector...it is a message to the UK government about the importance of the sector...Design can help the UK thrive after Brexit. But first the government must help design. Here's why. - Dezeen

Settle Into 10 of the Most Beautiful Libraries on Earth: ...the more public funds libraries receive, the more people tend to use them...Many of them function not just as singular temples to the written word, but community centers, auditoria, concert halls, and public gardens. All of them are works of art in themselves. -- Hammer Larsen; Gould Evans; XL-Muse; Tabanlıoğlu Architects; Hard Architects; DRDH; SOM; Mecanoo; Anagrama [images]- Wired

Call for entries: Request for Qualifications/RFQ for River Park Design, Town of Eagle, Colorado; deadline: October 3- Town of Eagle, Colorado

Call for entries: Expression of Interest/EOI: United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial International Design Competition; deadline: October 17- Malcolm Reading Consultants / UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation

Call for entries: 2017 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence; project must be located in the continental U.S.; prizes: 1 Gold Medal of \$50,000 and four Silver Medals of \$10,000; deadline: December 8- Bruner Foundation

Call for entries: Blueprint for Genova: international ideas competition for the redevelopment of areas of the former Trade Fair site, based on Renzo Piano Building Workshop pro-bono masterplan; cash prizes; deadline: December 15- City of Genoa / SPIIM

Oslo Architecture Biennale: After Belonging: Fascinating installations...are undermined by pseudointellectual theory: Curated by five Spanish architects and academics...the scope of their project is mind-bogglingly vast...Sadly, too many of the projects

take compelling topics and murder them with a toxic cocktail of wilful complexity, pseudointellectual posturing and dumb conceptual art. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Sweatbox heaven: welcome to the sauna and steam of your dreams: From steamrooms suspended under remote Czech bridges to the Swedish robot sauna straight out of Star Wars, the spa experience is getting a guerilla makeover: ...experimental enclosures on show in "Soak, Steam, Dream: Reinventing Bathing Culture" at Roca London Gallery...With our shrinking living space prompting us to rethink the boundaries between public and private...this exhibition gets up a real head of steam. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Edward Burtynsky on his ravaged Earth shots: 'We've reached peak everything': The great photographer's awesome images...show how industry has drilled and drained our planet: ...these glossy visions are no mere enviro-porn...If his message is one of impending catastrophe - or indeed a catastrophe that's already happened - it is tempered by the fact that these manmade scars are incredibly seductive. ("Salt Pans | Essential Elements", Floewrs Gallery, London) By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Great Dane: Ove Arup: The design philosophy and achievements of the Danish engineer are being celebrated in a London exhibition: In collaboration with an emerging generation of architects...creating a new High-Tech style in which the engineering of a building defines its appearance. "Engineering the World: Ove Arup and the Philosophy of Total Design" at the V&A. By Colin Martin [images]- ArchitectureNow (New Zealand)

London Design Festival Previews the 2016 Installations: Running across the capital from September 17-25...brings together architects, designers and artists for over 400 events spread across the capital. [images]- Interior Design magazine

Architecture Week 2016 - Housing the Future: Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, September 19-25- New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA)

"Designing Detroit's Future": 6th Annual Detroit Design Festival Celebrates UNESCO Designation: ...first and only recognized UNESCO City of Design in the United States...one of only 22 cities worldwide...September 21-25- Detroit Creative Corridor Center (DC3)

"City Squares: Eighteen Writers on the Spirit and Significance of Squares Around the World": Catie Marron, chairman of the board at Friends of the High Line...has collected 18 thoughtful essays on urban squares to follow her previous book, "City Parks: Public Places, Private Thoughts"...It is instead a celebration of these quintessential outdoor rooms as civic settings for the rituals and dramas of urban life. By James Gauer- Architectural Record

LTL's New Book Celebrates the Joy of the Section: Aaron Betsky praises the latest drawing-heavy book from Lewis Tsurumaki Lewis Architects, "Manual of Section": Sections are the secret language of architects...Our love of them is logical...but also our guilty secret...I love this book. It might be perverse and old fashioned, but the section opens a world in architecture in which I gladly, with this book as my Baedeker Guide, go wandering.- Architect Magazine



Durbach Block Jagers/BVN Architecture: University of Technology Sydney/UTS Thomas Street Building, Sydney, Australia: Conceived as a garden sanctuary within a dense inner-city suburb, this joyfully crafted building offers respite from its tough surrounds. By Jennifer McMaster [images]

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